



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Commissioner for Patents
United States Patent and Trademark Office
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

Steven Anthony Smith
30075 NW Capehorn Rd
Buxton, OR 97109

COPY MAILED

JUL 26 2006

OFFICE OF PETITIONS

Decision on Petition

In re Application of Smith :
Application No. 10/648,409 :
Filing Date: August 25, 2003 :
For: Powerflex Deluxe Walking Sticks :

This is a decision on the petition filed April 11, 2006, under 37 CFR 1.181 to withdraw the holding of abandonment of the above-identified application.

The petition is **dismissed**.

Facts:

A non-final Office action was mailed November 18, 2004.

A reply was filed February 17, 2005.

A Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment was mailed July 1, 2005. The Notice stated problems existed with both amendments to the specification and amendments to the claims. Petitioner did not seek to amend the abstract and the Notice did not state any problem existed with the abstract.

The July 1, 2005 Notice stated, "For further explanation of the amendment format required by 37 CFR 1.121, see MPEP § 714 and the USPTO website at <http://www.uspto.gov/web....>" A copy of the two page form found at the website is attached.

The July 1, 2005 Notice set an extendable period for reply of 1 month.

Petitioner filed a reply July 28, 2005. The reply included a new handwritten abstract page. The reply failed to correct the problems noted on the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment.

A Notice entitled, "Failure to Acceptably Respond to Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment" was mailed November 4, 2005. The Notice did not set a new time period for reply. Therefore, the time period to reply continued to be the extendable one-month time period set forth in the July 1, 2005.

Petitioner states a new amendment was filed November 28, 2005. Petitioner does not allege payment for an extension of time was filed with the new amendment.

The papers filed November 28, 2005, were not matched with the file.

A Notice of Abandonment was mailed March 3, 2006. The Notice incorrectly stated the application was abandoned as a result of petitioner's failure to file a proper reply to an Office action mailed July 28, 2005. However, the application is abandoned because applicant did not file a proper and timely reply to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed July 1, 2005.

The instant petition was filed April 10, 2006.

Discussion:

Petitioner, not the Office, was responsible for ensuring a proper and timely reply was filed in response to the Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment mailed July 1, 2005. As a courtesy, the Office may advise the applicant when a reply, such as the reply filed July 28, 2005, is deficient. However, the Office was not under any obligation to advise applicant the July 28, 2005 reply was improper on or before a set date.

The Notice mailed November 4, 2005, did not set a new time period for petitioner to reply. Therefore, the application is abandoned unless petitioner demonstrates:

- (1) a proper reply was filed in reply to the July 1, 2005 Notice, *and*
- (2) the proper reply was timely filed.

The July 1, 2005 Notice set a one month time period for reply unless extensions of time were purchased. A proper reply was not filed within the one month period of time. Petitioner's belief the \$795 fee required to obtain a four month extension of time is excessively high does not alter the fact the fee required to obtain a four month extension of time is \$795. Petitioner did not submit \$795 or any other fee for an extension of time. Therefore, any replies filed after August 1, 2005, even if in the proper format, were untimely.

When an application is abandoned, one may only revive the application under 37 CFR 1.137. Petitioner may wish to consider filing a petition to revive based on unintentional abandonment under 37 CFR 1.137(b). A grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) must be accompanied by the required reply (already submitted), the required petition fee (\$750 for a small entity), and a statement that the **entire** delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the reply until the filing of a grantable petition pursuant to 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. A copy of a blank petition form is enclosed for petitioner's convenience.

As a courtesy, the Office will address petitioner's concern over "conflicting" information related to signature requirements. Ms. Toi Johnson probably informed petitioner each paper must be signed. Such a statement can be misconstrued to mean each page. However, the Office defines "paper" differently. An example is the best way to illustrate the difference between paper and page. Suppose X files a 7 page amendment, a 1 page request for extension of time, and a 1 page transmittal letter. X has filed a total of 9 pages. However, X has filed 3 papers - an amendment, a request for an extension of time, and a transmittal letter. Each of the 3 papers should be signed. However, X would not need to sign all 9 pages.

A review of the evidence filed with the petition indicates petitioner may be unfamiliar with the provisions of 37 CFR 1.8. A discussion of 37 CFR 1.8 is attached.

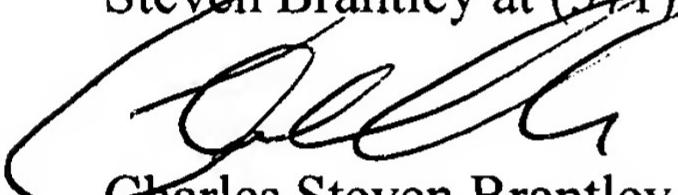
Any request for reconsideration must be submitted within TWO (2) MONTHS from the mail date of this decision. Extensions of time under 37 CFR 1.136(a) are NOT permitted.

Further correspondence with respect to this matter should be addressed as follows:

By mail: Mail Stop Petition
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

By facsimile: (571) 273-8300
Attn: Office of Petitions

Telephone inquiries regarding this communication should be directed to Petitions Attorney Steven Brantley at (571) 272-3203.


Charles Steven Brantley
Senior Petitions Attorney
Office of Petitions

Attached: Rule 137(b) revival form
Discussion of Rule 8 practice
2 pages explaining amendment practice from a portion of the PTO website
7 pages providing an example of amendment practice

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

PETITION FOR REVIVAL OF AN APPLICATION FOR PATENT ABANDONED UNINTENTIONALLY UNDER 37 CFR 1.137(b)	Docket Number (Optional)
--	--------------------------

First named inventor:

Application No.:

Art Unit:

Filed:

Examiner:

Title:

Attention: Office of Petitions
Mail Stop Petition
 Commissioner for Patents
 P.O. Box 1450
 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450
 FAX (571) 273-8300

NOTE: If information or assistance is needed in completing this form, please contact Petitions Information at (571) 272-3282.

The above-identified application became abandoned for failure to file a timely and proper reply to a notice or action by the United States Patent and Trademark Office. The date of abandonment is the day after the expiration date of the period set for reply in the office notice or action plus an extensions of time actually obtained.

APPLICANT HEREBY PETITIONS FOR REVIVAL OF THIS APPLICATION

NOTE: A grantable petition requires the following items:

- (1) Petition fee;
- (2) Reply and/or issue fee;
- (3) Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee - required for all utility and plant applications filed before June 8, 1995; and for all design applications; and
- (4) Statement that the entire delay was unintentional.

1. Petition fee

Small entity-fee \$ _____ (37 CFR 1.17(m)). Applicant claims small entity status. See 37 CFR 1.27.

Other than small entity – fee \$ _____ (37 CFR 1.17(m))

2. Reply and/or fee

A. The reply and/or fee to the above-noted Office action in the form of _____ (identify type of reply):

has been filed previously on _____.
 is enclosed herewith.

B. The issue fee and publication fee (if applicable) of \$ _____.
 has been paid previously on _____.
 is enclosed herewith.

[Page 1 of 2]

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.137(b). The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to take 1.0 hour to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: **Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450**.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

3. Terminal disclaimer with disclaimer fee

- Since this utility/plant application was filed on or after June 8, 1995, no terminal disclaimer is required.
- A terminal disclaimer (and disclaimer fee (37 CFR 1.20(d)) of \$ _____ for a small entity or \$ _____ for other than a small entity) disclaiming the required period of time is enclosed herewith (see PTO/SB/63).

4. STATEMENT: The entire delay in filing the required reply from the due date for the required reply until the filing of a grantable petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional. [NOTE: The United States Patent and Trademark Office may require additional information if there is a question as to whether either the abandonment or the delay in filing a petition under 37 CFR 1.137(b) was unintentional (MPEP 711.03(c), subsections (III)(C) and (D)).]

WARNING:

Petitioner/applicant is cautioned to avoid submitting personal information in documents filed in a patent application that may contribute to identity theft. Personal information such as social security numbers, bank account numbers, or credit card numbers (other than a check or credit card authorization form PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes) is never required by the USPTO to support a petition or an application. If this type of personal information is included in documents submitted to the USPTO, petitioners/applicants should consider redacting such personal information from the documents before submitting them to the USPTO. Petitioner/applicant is advised that the record of a patent application is available to the public after publication of the application (unless a non-publication request in compliance with 37 CFR 1.213(a) is made in the application) or issuance of a patent. Furthermore, the record from an abandoned application may also be available to the public if the application is referenced in a published application or an issued patent (see 37 CFR 1.14). Checks and credit card authorization forms PTO-2038 submitted for payment purposes are not retained in the application file and therefore are not publicly available.

Signature

Date

Typed or printed name

Registration Number, if applicable

Address

Telephone Number

Address

Enclosures: Fee Payment Reply Terminal Disclaimer Form Additional sheets containing statements establishing unintentional delay Other: _____**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR 1.8(a)]**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:

- Deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Petition, Commissioner for Patents, P. O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.
- Transmitted by facsimile on the date shown below to the United States Patent and Trademark Office as (571) 273-8300.

Date

Signature

Typed or printed name of person signing certificate

Privacy Act Statement

The Privacy Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-579) requires that you be given certain information in connection with your submission of the attached form related to a patent application or patent. Accordingly, pursuant to the requirements of the Act, please be advised that: (1) the general authority for the collection of this information is 35 U.S.C. 2(b)(2); (2) furnishing of the information solicited is voluntary; and (3) the principal purpose for which the information is used by the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is to process and/or examine your submission related to a patent application or patent. If you do not furnish the requested information, the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office may not be able to process and/or examine your submission, which may result in termination of proceedings or abandonment of the application or expiration of the patent.

The information provided by you in this form will be subject to the following routine uses:

1. The information on this form will be treated confidentially to the extent allowed under the Freedom of Information Act (5 U.S.C. 552) and the Privacy Act (5 U.S.C 552a). Records from this system of records may be disclosed to the Department of Justice to determine whether disclosure of these records is required by the Freedom of Information Act.
2. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, in the course of presenting evidence to a court, magistrate, or administrative tribunal, including disclosures to opposing counsel in the course of settlement negotiations.
3. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Member of Congress submitting a request involving an individual, to whom the record pertains, when the individual has requested assistance from the Member with respect to the subject matter of the record.
4. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a contractor of the Agency having need for the information in order to perform a contract. Recipients of information shall be required to comply with the requirements of the Privacy Act of 1974, as amended, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552a(m).
5. A record related to an International Application filed under the Patent Cooperation Treaty in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the International Bureau of the World Intellectual Property Organization, pursuant to the Patent Cooperation Treaty.
6. A record in this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to another federal agency for purposes of National Security review (35 U.S.C. 181) and for review pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act (42 U.S.C. 218(c)).
7. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the Administrator, General Services, or his/her designee, during an inspection of records conducted by GSA as part of that agency's responsibility to recommend improvements in records management practices and programs, under authority of 44 U.S.C. 2904 and 2906. Such disclosure shall be made in accordance with the GSA regulations governing inspection of records for this purpose, and any other relevant (*i.e.*, GSA or Commerce) directive. Such disclosure shall not be used to make determinations about individuals.
8. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to the public after either publication of the application pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 122(b) or issuance of a patent pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 151. Further, a record may be disclosed, subject to the limitations of 37 CFR 1.14, as a routine use, to the public if the record was filed in an application which became abandoned or in which the proceedings were terminated and which application is referenced by either a published application, an application open to public inspection or an issued patent.
9. A record from this system of records may be disclosed, as a routine use, to a Federal, State, or local law enforcement agency, if the USPTO becomes aware of a violation or potential violation of law or regulation.

Certificate of Mailing Practice:

Using "Certificate of Mailing" procedures, one may ensure that certain papers filed with the Office are considered timely even if the Office does not physically receive the papers until after the end of the period of time for reply.

Example: A reply is due by May 1, 2006.

A reply is mailed with the United States Postal Service on May 1, 2006.

The reply is delayed in the mail and is not delivered to the USPTO until May 5, 2006.

If the reply was properly mailed using "Certificate of Mailing" procedures, the reply will be considered timely even though the reply was received on May 5, 2006.

"Certificate of Mailing" procedures can allow one to prove a paper was timely mailed when USPTO records fail to indicate the paper was received.

The first step in using "Certificate of Mailing" is placing the proper language on a portion of each paper being submitted or placing the certification language on a separate sheet. If the certification is presented on a separate sheet, that sheet must:

- (1) be signed,
- (2) be securely attached to the papers filed, **AND**
- (3) fully and completely identify each paper being attached, e.g., reply to final rejection, Notice of Appeal, etc.

A suggested format for the Certificate of Mailing can be found below.

Certificate of Mailing

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage on (put the DATE) as first class mail or Express Mail in an envelope addressed to:

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

Signature: _____

One may also use "Certificate of Mailing" procedures to submit a paper by facsimile transmission. If use for facsimile transmission, the certification is called a "Certificate of Transmission." A suggested format for the Certificate of Mailing can be found below.

Certificate of Transmission

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (571) 273-8300) on (put the date).

Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate

Signature: _____

The second step necessary to properly use "Certificate of Mailing" procedures requires to the individual who will be mailing or sending the paper(s) by facsimile transmission to complete the information in the Certificate of Mailing or Transmission *on the date it will be mailed or transmitted*.

The third step is to make a copy of the paper(s) and retain the copy of the papers. The copy should be made *after* the Certificate has been properly completed (dated, signed, etc.).

The fourth step, when one wishes to mail the paper, is mailing the paper by first class using the United States Postal Service on the date listed in the Certificate. The term "first class mail" also includes papers mailed with the USPS by Express Mail or Priority Mail.

The fourth step, when one wishes to transmit the paper, is sending the transmission on the date listed in the Certificate, obtaining a sheet from the sending unit verifying the transmission was successful, and retaining the sheet.

It should be noted that the benefits of a Certificate of Mailing/Transmission procedures do not apply to all papers.¹ In addition to the exceptions listed in the footnote, one may not use a Certificate of *Transmission* for some drawing submissions. However, since sending a paper by facsimile transmissions degrades the quality of the image, a person in the United States may wish to mail drawings even in circumstances where the drawings could be submitted by facsimile transmission.

The following page is a copy of a suggested Transmittal Form prepared by the Office. Please note the Certificate of Mailing/Transmission located on the bottom of the form.

¹ Certificate of Mailing or Transmission practice does not apply to the submission of original application papers, Continued Prosecution Applications, some papers related to interference practice, the filing of an international application, the filing of papers in an international application, and the filing of copy of international application and fee required to enter national stage.

Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

TRANSMITTAL FORM

(to be used for all correspondence after initial filing)

Total Number of Pages in This Submission

Application Number

Filing Date

First Named Inventor

Art Unit

Examiner Name

Attorney Docket Number

ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Fee Attached	<input type="checkbox"/> Drawing(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Licensing-related Papers	<input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to TC <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to TC (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) <input type="checkbox"/> Proprietary Information <input type="checkbox"/> Status Letter <input type="checkbox"/> Other Enclosure(s) (please identify below):
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendment/Reply <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition <input type="checkbox"/> Petition to Convert to a Provisional Application <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney, Revocation <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Correspondence Address	<input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> CD, Number of CD(s) _____ <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Table on CD
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Express Abandonment Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement	Remarks	
<input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts/ Incomplete Application <input type="checkbox"/> Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53		

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT

Firm Name		
Signature		
Printed name		
Date	Reg. No.	

CERTIFICATE OF TRANSMISSION/MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the USPTO or deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date shown below:

Signature		
Typed or printed name	Date	

This collection of information is required by 37 CFR 1.5. The information is required to obtain or retain a benefit by the public which is to file (and by the USPTO to process) an application. Confidentiality is governed by 35 U.S.C. 122 and 37 CFR 1.11 and 1.14. This collection is estimated to 2 hours to complete, including gathering, preparing, and submitting the completed application form to the USPTO. Time will vary depending upon the individual case. Any comments on the amount of time you require to complete this form and/or suggestions for reducing this burden, should be sent to the Chief Information Officer, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, U.S. Department of Commerce, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450. DO NOT SEND FEES OR COMPLETED FORMS TO THIS ADDRESS. SEND TO: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

If you need assistance in completing the form, call 1-800-PTO-9199 and select option 2.

**REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE: 37 CFR 1.121 CHANGED
COMPLIANCE IS MANDATORY - Effective Date: July 30, 2003**

All amendments filed on or after the effective date noted above must comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121. See Final Rule: **Changes To Implement Electronic Maintenance of Official Patent Application Records** (68 Fed. Reg. 38611 (June 30, 2003), posted on the Office's website at: <http://www.uspto.gov/web/patents/ifw/> with related information. The amendment practice set forth in revised 37 CFR 1.121, and described below, replaces the voluntary revised amendment format available to applicants since February 2003. **NOTE: STRICT COMPLIANCE WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121 IS REQUIRED AS OF THE EFFECTIVE DATE (July 30, 2003).** The Office will notify applicants of amendments that are not accepted because they do not comply with revised 37 CFR 1.121 via a Notice of Non-Compliant Amendment. See MPEP 714.03 (Rev. 1, Feb. 2003). The non-compliant section(s) will have to be corrected and the entire corrected section(s) resubmitted within a set period.

Bold underlined italic font has been used below to highlight the major differences between the revised 37 CFR 1.121 and the voluntary revised amendment format that applicants could use since February, 2003.

Note: The amendment practice for reissues and reexamination proceedings, except for drawings, has not changed.

REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE

I. Begin each section of an amendment document on a separate sheet:

Each section of an amendment document (e.g., Specification Amendments, Claim Amendments, Drawing Amendments, and Remarks) must begin on a separate sheet. Starting each separate section on a new page will facilitate the process of separately indexing and scanning each section of an amendment document for placement in an image file wrapper.

II. Two versions of amended part(s) no longer required:

37 CFR 1.121 has been revised to **no longer require** two versions (a clean version and a marked up version) of each replacement paragraph or section, or amended claim. Note, however, the requirements for a clean version and a marked up version for **substitute specifications** under 37 CFR 1.125 have been retained.

A) Amendments to the claims:

Each amendment document that includes a change to an existing claim, cancellation of a claim or submission of a new claim, **must include a complete listing** of all claims in the application. After each claim number in the listing, the status must be indicated in a parenthetical expression, and **the text of each pending claim** (with markings to show **current changes**) must be presented. The claims in the listing will replace all prior claims in the application.

- (1) The current status of all of the claims in the application, including any previously canceled, not entered or withdrawn claims, must be given in a parenthetical expression following the claim number using only one of the following seven status identifiers: (original), (currently amended), (canceled), (withdrawn), (new), (**previously presented**) and (**not entered**). The text of all pending claims, **including withdrawn claims**, must be submitted each time any claim is amended. Canceled **and not entered** claims must be indicated by only the claim number and status, without presenting the text of the claims.
- (2) The text of all claims **being currently amended** must be presented in the claim listing with markings to indicate the changes that have been made relative to the immediate prior version. The changes in any amended claim must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for **deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[eroor]])**; and (2) if **strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number "4" or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]])**. As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as). An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Only claims of the status "currently amended," and "withdrawn" that are being amended, may include markings.
- (3) The text of pending claims **not being currently amended, including withdrawn claims**, must be presented in the claim listing in clean version, i.e., without any markings. Any claim text presented in clean version will constitute an assertion that it has not been changed relative to the immediate prior version except to omit markings that may have been present in the immediate prior version of the claims.

- (4) A claim being canceled must be listed in the claim listing with the status identifier “canceled”; the text of the claim must not be presented. Providing an instruction to cancel is optional.
- (5) Any claims added by amendment must be presented in the claim listing with the status identifier “(new)”; the text of the claim must not be underlined.
- (6) All of the claims in the claim listing must be presented in ascending numerical order. Consecutive canceled, or not entered, claims may be aggregated into one statement (e.g., Claims 1 – 5 (canceled)).

Example of listing of claims (use of the word “claim” before the claim number is optional):

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A handle comprising an elongated wire.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The handle of claim 7 further comprising a plastic grip.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 9 wherein the handle is made of wood.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (not entered)

Claim 13 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

B) Amendments to the specification:

Amendments to the specification, including the abstract, must be made by presenting a replacement paragraph or section or abstract marked up to show changes made relative to the immediate prior version. An accompanying clean version is not required and should not be presented. Newly added paragraphs or sections, including a new abstract (instead of a replacement abstract), must not be underlined. A replacement or new abstract must be submitted on a separate sheet, 37 CFR 1.72. If a substitute specification is being submitted to incorporate extensive amendments, both a clean version (which will be entered) and a marked up version must be submitted as per 37 CFR 1.125.

The changes in any replacement paragraph or section, or substitute specification must be shown by underlining (for added matter) or strikethrough (for deleted matter) with 2 exceptions: (1) for deletion of five characters or fewer, double brackets may be used (e.g., [[eroor]]); and (2) if strikethrough cannot be easily perceived (e.g., deletion of the number “4” or certain punctuation marks), double brackets must be used (e.g., [[4]]). As an alternative to using double brackets, however, extra portions of text may be included before and after text being deleted, all in strikethrough, followed by including and underlining the extra text with the desired change (e.g., number 4 as number 14 as)

C) Amendments to drawing figures:

Drawing changes must be made by presenting replacement figures which incorporate the desired changes and which comply with 37 CFR 1.84. An explanation of the changes made must be presented either in the drawing amendments, or remarks, section of the amendment, and may be accompanied by a marked-up copy of one or more of the figures being amended, with annotations. Any replacement drawing sheet must be identified in the top margin as “Replacement Sheet” and include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even though only one figure may be amended. Any marked-up (annotated) copy showing changes must be labeled “Annotated Marked-up Drawings” and accompany the replacement sheet in the amendment (e.g., as an appendix).

The figure or figure number of the amended drawing(s) must not be labeled as “amended.” If the changes to the drawing figure(s) are not accepted by the examiner, applicant will be notified of any required corrective action in the next Office action. No further drawing submission will be required, unless applicant is notified.

Questions regarding the submission of amendments pursuant to the revised practice set forth in this flyer should be directed to: Elizabeth Dougherty or Gena Jones, Legal Advisors, or Joe Narcavage, Senior Special Projects Examiner, Office of Patent Legal Administration, by e-mail to patentpractice@uspto.gov or by phone at (703) 305-1616.

SAMPLE FORMAT FOR REVISED AMENDMENT PRACTICE **(Rev. 6/03)**

Appl. No. : XX/YYY,YYY Confirmation No. WXYZ
Applicant : James Q. Inventor
Filed : April 19, 2003
TC/A.U. : 1744
Examiner : John Doe
Docket No. : 12345/JAS/R758
Customer No. : 88888

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT

Sir:

In response to the Office action of October 16, 2003, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 3 of this paper.

Amendments to the Drawings begin on page 4 of this paper and include both an attached replacement sheet and an annotated sheet showing changes.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 5 of this paper.

An **Appendix** including amended drawing figures is attached following page 5 of this paper.

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace paragraph [0021] with the following amended paragraph:

[0021] In the construction of the bucket of this invention, various materials have been selected [[and]] which offer a number of diverse properties [[,]] and allow for varied functions of the article. For caustic solutions, the bucket can be made of a durable ~~polymer~~ plastic material. Where an aesthetic appeal is desired, the bucket can be any [[of]] one of many attractive colors. The following ~~listing~~ list of properties serves to define possible uses for the buckets.

Please replace paragraph [0045] with the following amended paragraph:

[0045] Figure 1 displays a bucket of the invention. As can be seen from the drawing, ~~the a~~ handle is attached to the upper lip of the structure and connected at points diametrically opposite each other on the circumference.

Please add the following new paragraph after paragraph [0075]:

[0075.1] An optional feature of the articles of the invention is the addition of a tetrafluoroethylene coating to the bucket to provide protection from any contents which might be caustic. The coating can be provided to the surface during the manufacturing process or can be added in a later step.

Please delete the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 4, which starts with “Under normal circumstances”

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (previously presented): A bucket with a handle.

Claim 7 (withdrawn): A handle comprising an elongated wire.

Claim 8 (withdrawn): The handle of claim 7 further comprising a plastic grip.

Claim 9 (currently amended): A bucket with a ~~green~~ blue handle.

Claim 10 (original): The bucket of claim 9 wherein the handle is made of wood.

Claim 11 (canceled)

Claim 12 (not entered)

Claim 13 (new): A bucket with plastic sides and bottom.

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Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 2. This sheet, which includes Fig. 1-2, replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1-2. In Figure 2, previously omitted element 13 has been added.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
 Annotated Sheet Showing Changes

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In the specification, the paragraphs [0021] and [0045] have been amended to correct minor editorial problems. The new paragraph [0075.1] added after paragraph [0075] discusses in general terms the features taken from Example 4.

In amended Figure 2, the previously omitted element numeral 13 has been added.

Claims 6-10 and 12-13 remain in this application. Claims 1-5 and 11 have been canceled. Claims 7 and 8 have been withdrawn.

The examiner has acknowledged that claims 6 and 9-10 are directed to allowable subject matter. Claim 7-8 have been withdrawn as the result of an earlier restriction requirement. Claim 13 adds an additional feature from Example 2 in the specification.

In view of the examiner's earlier restriction requirement, applicant retains the right to present claims 7-8 in a divisional application

.....
.....
Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

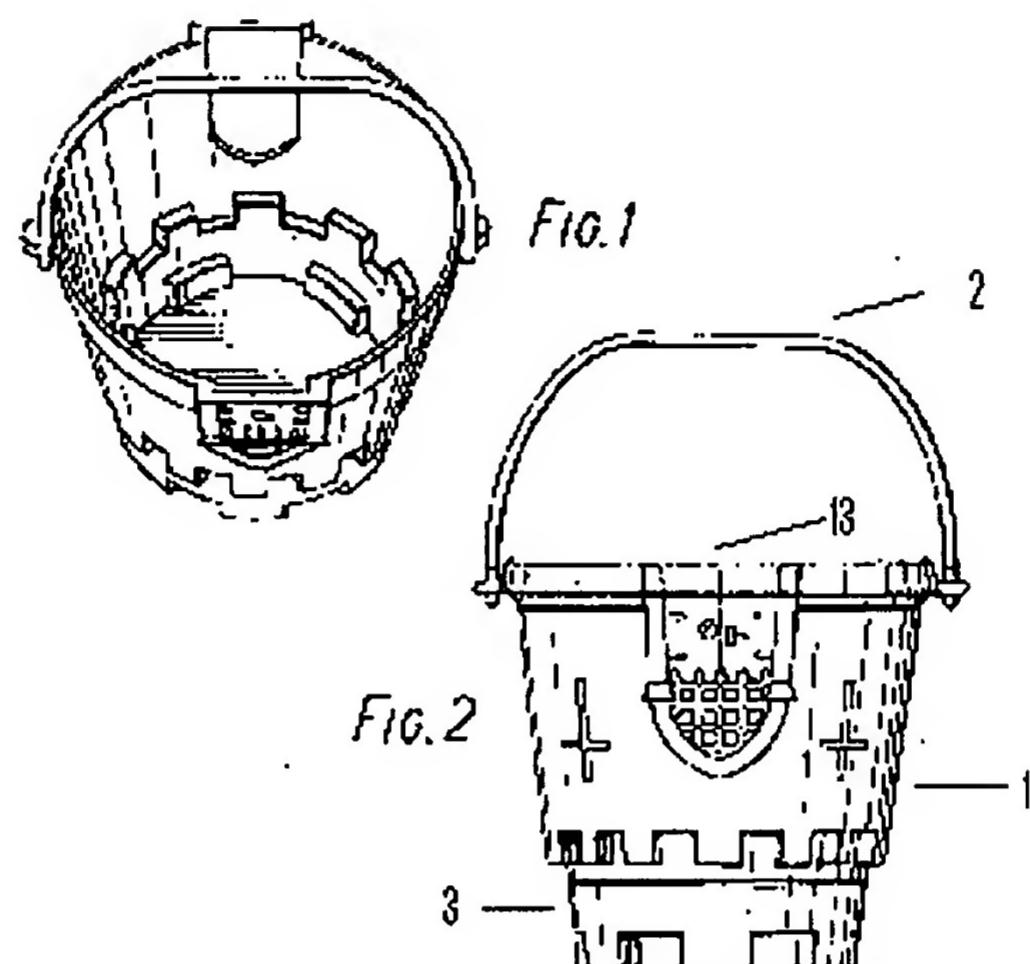
SMITH, JONES & BROWN

By _____

Martin J. Gallagher
Reg. No. 99,999
Tel.: (101) 555-2345

Attachments

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